GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:17
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2005
STANDARD OF SPORTS
Fanthome Shri Francis

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the standards of Sports and Games supported by the Government aid has not improved upto the desired level till now;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that Government aided sports schools, Academies and various other Institutions, exhibit accountability in terms of performance at National and International level?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT)

(a) & (b) : Sports is a state subject and promotion of same at the State level is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. Also National Sports Federations (NSFs) are responsible to promote sports at national and international level. However, the Government of India provides assistance for promotion of sports to the State Government and National Sports Federations through its various schemes towards infrastructure, equipment, training (within the country and abroad), participation in international competitions, organisation of national and international championships, training by foreign coaches, international exposure to talents etc. In addition, Sports Authority of India is implementing the following schemes for promotion and development of sports in the country.

1. National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC)
2. Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
3. Special Area Games (SAG)
4. SAI Training Centre (STC)
5. Centre of Excellence (COX)

The performance of Indian sportspersons since the Commonwealth Games, 2002 indicates that the standard of sports & games has improved in the last few years due to the combined efforts made by various agencies including Sports Authority of India. India won a record haul of 69 medals (as against 25 in the last games) in the 2002 Commonwealth Games and secured fourth position. The tempo was sustained in the Busan Asian Games in which India secured 36 medals. Since then, Indian sportspersons have performed creditably in a number of international competitions including the 1st Afro-Asian Games in Hyderabad and SAF Games in Islamabad in 2004. In Athens Olympics 2004, India won a first silver medal in an individual event since independence while some of the sportspersons gave their best performances. In Paralympic Games 2004 at Athens, India won 1 gold medal in athletics and 1 bronze medal in powerlifting.

(c) Sports being a State subject, the schools and institutions availing Government assistance are primarily under the Control of the State governments. However, under NSTC scheme implemented by Sports Authority of India, the performance of the schools are monitored by Sports Authority of India.